The Canadian Association of Second Language Teachers / L'Association canadienne des professeurs de langues secondes

CASLT/ACPLS

NEWS RELEASE

TV Special Showcases the Vitality and Diversity of French Culture in Canada. March 20th 2008, 9:30 pm, on TV5 Quebec-Canada

OTTAWA, March 7, 2008 –The Canadian Association of Second Language Teachers (CASLT) invites all Canadians to reflect on what it means to be a Francophone and Francophile in Canada through a special television documentary.

Spoken langue: la francophonie canadienne en 2008, which airs March 20th at 10:00 pm on TV5-Quebec Canada (and March 23rd at 11:30pm) to mark International Francophonie Day, showcases the lives of Canadians who choose to live in French and who contribute to growth and vitality.

In Alberta, the French language flourishes thanks to French-speaking immigrants. In the Yukon, the significant presence of francophone tourists leads to a renewed interest in francophone culture among residents. In Souris, Prince Edward Island, parents rally together to keep French alive for future generations. In British Columbia, a roving library travels more then 600 km daily to deliver French literature to small community libraries and schools. Although living in English may appear to be simpler, the documentary explores what motivates these people to live in French.

Produced with a special grant from Canadian Heritage, the documentary will be integrated into a pedagogical teacher's kit, which will include three-minute television vignettes featuring interesting French speakers along with accompanying teacher materials for class discussion. The kit will be launched in July and be available for download from the CASLT Web site.

According to CASLT President John Erskine, the documentary is a timely and effective resource for French Second Language classrooms that will increase student awareness and appreciation of the many different facets French life can take in Canada. "Students need to discover for themselves that learning French is far more than a subject matter at school: they need to get to know the real, dynamic French-speaking communities and role models in Canada today who contribute so much to our country's diversity and success. We hope the documentary and the television vignettes will inspire and motivate more young people to pursue their French language education."

Spoken langue: la francophonie canadienne en 2008 is a special project of the Canadian Association of Second Language Teachers, in collaboration with TV5 Quebec-Canada and the Organizing Committee of the XIIth World Congress of the Fédération internationale des professeurs de français taking place in Quebec City, July 21-25th, 2008.

Established in 1970, the Canadian Association of Second Language Teachers (CASLT) increases awareness, appreciation, and understanding of the importance of second

language learning and teaching throughout Canada and promotes the advancement of professional excellence among language educators. See www.caslt.org for more information.

– 30 –

For more information, please contact:

Nathalie Landry
CASLT Communications Officer (bilingual)
CASLT Head Office – Ottawa, Ontario
613.727.0994 x2 (office)
educ@caslt.org